

canadian camping

nov. 1975

Without any doubt, the mail strike has brought its hardships and "Canadian Camping" is no exception. Unfortunately, when the time for typesetting arrived, we were lacking in advertisements and editorial content which included resumé in French. Recognizing we had a definite commitment to our reading public, the decision was made to publish a four page Newsletter. We trust our readers will understand the difficulty and accept this publication.

Helen E. Stewart, *Editor*

have you heard? do you know?

Our warm thanks to **Jocelyn Palm**, Managing Director of "Canadian Camping", for providing us with the recent news from the Provinces. ★ The C.C.A.

Executive and Provincial Representatives met recently in Ottawa for their fall meeting. Word comes from B.C. that **Rick**

Ryan, former President of the BCCA, has moved to Montreal to become

Executive Director of Boys' Clubs of Canada. **John Hasell**, Executive Director of

Outward Bound, is now the President of BCCA... A Camp Directors' Workshop will

be held November 21-23 and the Annual Meeting in January... A meeting of the BCCA will

be held in conjunction with the B.C. Recreation Association. This is one way of attempting to

interlock the interests of the two groups and to share knowledge amongst members of both groups...

The 1977 Annual Meeting of CCA is planned for April 28-30 in Prince George, B.C. ★ And from Alberta...

The ACA plans a Conference, January 21-25, at the Yamnuska Centre, the new YMCA training camp about 25 miles

from Banff. The CCA Executive will meet at the same time and share in the leadership to the Conference... One major effort of ACA in '75 was their accreditation program with over 60 camps being visited. ★ The SCA was very much involved in the planning and securing of resource leaders for the National Outdoor and Environmental Education Conference held October 1-5 at Fort Qu'Appelle. It was felt that camping people made a significant impact and contribution to the Conference... A fall Workshop is planned for November 15 to focus upon winter camping. ★ The MCA conducted a new scheme in youth leadership development last summer. Approximately 50

young people participated in the training... Monthly meetings are being planned by the MCA in '76 and will be conducted as mini camp-directors' seminars. ★ A Leadership Development Seminar will be held by the OCA, November 7-9, at Muskoka Sands in Gravenhurst. Leadership for the Seminar will come from **Don Ehat** and a team of OCA members... The '76 OCA Conference is planned for February 26-29 at The Inn on the Park in Toronto. ★ **Mr. Gil Cardinal** is the new dynamic Executive Director of the ACQ-QCA... A pilot project is now in progress with a new slant on the training of counsellors. Selected counsellors from Quebec Camps are given a

course at a central location on the understanding that these people will return to their own camps and train their camp staff... The 1976 Annual Meeting of CCA will be held in Quebec City, April 28-30, in conjunction with a French Language Conference entitled "Activité Educative du Camp de Vacances - Educational Activity of Camping". ★ Interesting news from Newfoundland... The NLCA plans a November Meeting on the subject of evaluation of camp programs. It is a noteworthy fact that the NLCA Camps were oversubscribed last summer. Further, 99% of the camps in Newfoundland and Labrador are members of the NLCA. ★ All for now.

—Helen E. Stewart



Naturecraft

"Collectibles"

—by Ottelyn Addison

Educational Interpreter, Metro-Toronto Conservation Authority

If you want to inspire real creativity in your crafts at camp why not disregard the run-of-the-mill ready-made craft materials and replace them with natural "collectibles". Make a list of everything you can obtain and would like to use if (and I mean a big "if") none of them will deplete the environment. There are many things you can find. This is the time to cut a three-inch limb of any type tree provided it is from family property because by next summer the wood will be dry and ready to be cut in narrow diagonal strips. The campers can sand and polish the wood and make either name tags or pins.

When you are out for a walk it is sometimes surprising how many loose objects can be picked up and put to use — an odd-shaped stone, a crooked piece of weathered wood or a feather that a bird has dropped while moulting. This is an abundant year for cones; add fruit pits, nuts and seeds to the collection. Egg cartons are ideal for keeping each type of seed together and everything will be ready if and when you plan to make a seed mosaic. Just open the boxes and make your choice.

Can you identify most of the conifers? What ones are more numerous in your camp vicinity? Why not combine a tree identification lesson with the campers collecting a few cones themselves? The smaller cones from hemlock and tamarack trees are difficult to collect. A large sack of any kind of cone can be purchased at a cost of \$2.00 (if inflation hasn't hit that product too) from the Ministry of Natural Resources Seed Extraction Plant, Angus, Ontario. A smaller child can achieve a real feeling of accomplishment by finishing a necklace of cones. A needle, threaded with nylon fishing line, is easily pushed through either a hemlock or larch (tamarack) cone.

Acorns, chestnuts, basswood nuts and beech nuts should be harvested this fall. If you intend to make use of the whole acorn (the cap is apt to separate from the nut as it dries) it might be wise to pry off the cap and glue it on before it dries. The husks of the beech nuts are particularly attractive in designs and you can have the fun of eating the nutmeat part as a bonus.

Wherever you plan to go be certain that you have permission from the landowner — even an abandoned field belongs to someone, and always remember there is no picking of any sort in Conservation Areas or Provincial Parks. I am sure if you explain to a landowner that you only intend to pick "dime-a-dozen" (weeds) plants he won't

object. Goldenrod, grasses, milkweed pods are a few that come under this category.

While you are out on your jaunts do take time to become acclimatized to that special habitat. Look, listen and smell and make note of any interesting things that you see. You might even be fortunate enough to discover a goldfinch's nest, lined with thistle down and filled with half-grown fledglings. (They are late nesters.)

Are you beginning to wonder if you will ever find out the name of every plant you collect? That part isn't absolutely necessary but it is important to note that dry-habitat plants always grow together. You might have discovered that most of the weed-type plants were brought from the Old World by the early immigrants mostly for their medicinal qualities. For instance, the nondescript Boneset was the plant that supposedly saved the lives of hundreds of early settlers. Brew, made from the dried leaves and flowers, gave them strength during the long winter months.

Wetlands, if possible, are more interesting. Compare the two habitats and make a mental note of the differences. It is here that you will be able to plan camp expeditions because many of the sedges and bulrushes can be harvested in early July. Cattails should be picked when the seed-head is pencil slim but do not let your campers become overly enthusiastic — only take what you actually can use — remember other people also want to look and admire them too.

A wetland expedition is more exciting if it is done in the morning before the sunlight has dried the dew. You will be able to see myriads of cobwebs dotted with miniature jewels. (The sun, shining on the dew droplets produces every rainbow hue.) Mark any free cobwebs (only attached by the main guide-lines and not near any other shrubbery) and go back to make a cobweb picture. First, gently spray the web with any colour of paint on each side, keeping a newspaper behind so the colour won't paint background leaves. You will need four hands while you are carefully putting a plain sheet of coloured paper closely behind the web and gently "glue" the web to the paper with clear spray.

Plaster casts of animal tracks is an exciting project that can be taken home and long remembered as one of the highlight activities at camp.

Collecting pebbles of all colours and spraying them with lacquer is another excellent take-home craft.



Goldenrod
Gall

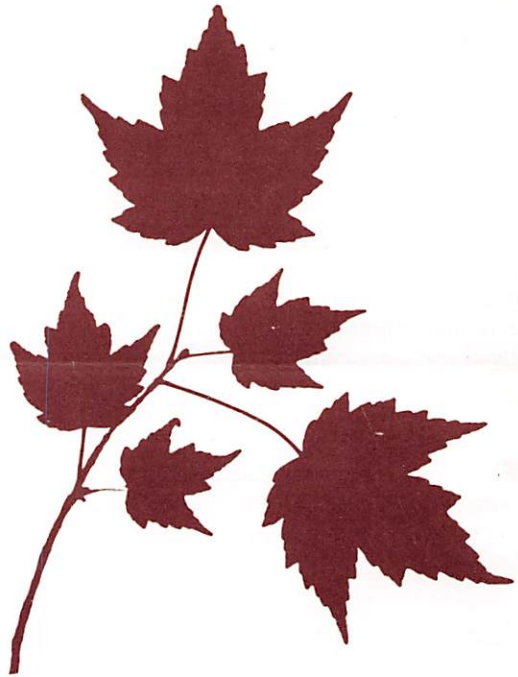
All ages get interested in making "doodads" from goldenrod galls. When you are looking for the bulges or galls on the goldenrod stem try to find a few that have double galls. Since there is not enough space to tell you how and why these are formed, why not look up the answer yourself. From the double ones you can make birds or dress up "people". It is very easy to make a farmer and his straw hat can come from a thistle seed head after the down is removed. The single galls, glued together, make very realistic looking moth larva. The ideas can be endless.

The instructors, themselves, may want to do some more time-taking and meticulous work. If you are pressing any coloured plant it is essential to change your newspapers at least twice for the first two days. I use one sheet, folded in half, with either felt building paper or, better still, half-inch polifoam cut to the same size for one side and corrugated paper for the other side of the folded newspaper. Repeat for each specimen and put a weight on top. Straight plants, such as grasses, buttercups and Queen Anne's Lace can be used



Queen Anne's Lace
by
Ottelyn

more artistically if you curve the stems while still pliable. It is almost impossible to keep the "blues" because the pigment is water-soluble. Yellows are excellent. Both because ferns are not "dime-a-dozen" and because the green fades rapidly even after careful pressing, I do not use them. Coloured leaves need paper changes three times in the first day or two. When collecting leaves look for a cluster from a small sapling tree and bend the stems until the result is more attractive. Now the tedious part is over



and I hope the colours are good. Place mats, hasty-notes and even lampshades can be decorated. Clear contact paper can be used to cover your arrangement.

Plants that are to be used in plant printing do not need the same care because you will be primarily interested in outline design. Your equipment does not need to be extensive. Sensitized printing paper can be obtained from any drafting or architect's office and also the "developer" whether it is a liquid method (which is safer) or by using 24% ammonia. An old picture frame makes an excellent frame. Just place your plants into a desired design, keeping in mind that the result will be turn-about-face on the glass. Put your paper, sensitized side down, on top of your arrangement and then the backing of either wood or cardboard. Hold firmly and expose it to sunlight. As soon as the paper turns white, take it out and develop it. I am sure you will be so enthusiastic with the result that you will want to create more and more designs. If you are doing it with younger campers it is less frustrating for them if you have them use single specimens.

For your own winter decoration you could put a single milkweed stalk in a bottle. When the seed and fluff begin to look as if they will take off give it a whiff of hair spray and it will remain in a state of suspension for weeks. Another "conversation piece" is a dried grey-green rosette (first year's growth) of the mullein. Cut the stem root off at the base of the leaves, place it on top of a juice can, gently shaping the leaves each day until it is dry.

Most of all have fun outdoors and at the same time learn more about the world around you, always keeping in mind that you are going to do your part to keep our wild areas natural-looking for years to come.

Children and the Outdoors

—by John Pratt

Director, Durham Region Board of Education's Outdoor Education Program, Camp Samac

What is Outdoor Education? What does it have to do with camping? Outdoor Education is giving children first-hand learning experiences using the great outdoors as a classroom. It involves sports activities, such as hiking and canoeing, field studies, such as wood lot or water pollution investigations, conservation activities, and survival training. School curriculum need not be neglected. Subjects can be taught more effectively and even enriched by outdoor experiences. Camp songs, art utilizing natural materials, creative writing, practical mathematics, geography, and environmental science in the outdoors can arouse the interest of many students who are not easily motivated in the classroom.



The author, right centre, building a winter shelter onto a fallen tree root.

Lasting interests may result in improved physical fitness, greater curiosity and general awareness of the environment and a deeper concern for its protection.

Not to be underrated is the incidental learning from sharing experiences and working together.

A much greater understanding of oneself and one's fellows can be achieved as a result of experiences in the outdoors. Better relations between teachers and students and among students themselves are inevitable.

While day excursions, either singly or in a series, can accomplish a great deal, I believe that there is no substitute for a week-long camp experience. Students can be immersed in a total outdoors situation from dawn to dusk. This allows attitudes and not just skills to be developed. Thus camping experience facilitates a greater use of the outdoors as a teaching resource as well as being a healthy recreational pursuit in its own right.

Editor's Note: As a result of many such comments, *Canadian Camping* indeed recognizes the worth of Outdoor Education and its year round aspects and has decided to feature an article on this important subject in each issue of the magazine. This column will appear in the National Directory Issue.

CAMP BOARDS

Married Man with extensive youth work experience desires to become involved in the camping field or related activities on a full time professional basis. Presently employed by a youth guidance agency.

Write: John A. McIntosh, 500 Springbrook Avenue, R.R.1, Ancaster, Ontario L9G 3K9

"HÉBERTISME"

a new booklet written by Claude Cousineau and published by the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation. 50 cents each from:

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